

**Hampton Board of Education
Hampton, Connecticut
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 2, 2010
Hampton Elementary School Media Center**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Board Members in attendance: Maryellen Donnelly, Doug Stewart, John Burnham, Lisa Siegmund, Ann Gruenberg (7:20 PM), Carol Misak.

Others present: Marsha Willhoit, Superintendent/Principal, Sally Lehoux, Finance/Administrative Assistant.

2. AUDIENCE FOR TEACHERS: none

3. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: none

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

a) Chairman Burnham informed the board of a letter from RD 11 concerning HES continued affiliation for health and dental benefits. Addressed in action item 8B.

b) Mr. Burnham read a letter of February 17 from Tabitha Perkins asking the BOE to consider rejoining the COC.

c) Chairman Burnham read a letter of February 11 from First Selectman Kate Donnelly concerning changes/updates to town ordinances needed by March 31. Item to be added to agenda for next meeting—discussion of possible ordinance updates and/or new ordinances.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Doug Stewart moved to accept the minutes of January 28 Special Meeting. Maryellen Donnelly seconded. Minutes accepted with 4 members voting to pass and Lisa Siegmund abstaining.

Doug Stewart moved to accept the minutes of January 21 Regular Meeting with corrections to the date on pages 2 and 3. Maryellen Donnelly seconded. Minutes accepted with 3 members voting to pass and Lisa Siegmund and Carol Misak abstaining.

6. SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPAL REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

a) Superintendent/Principal Willhoit reviewed the financial report.

b) Ms. Willhoit will present a candidate for the grade 4 teaching position to the Board under Business Actions.

c) Ms. Willhoit distributed the draft budget to BOE members. She reviewed the draft budget line item by line item, taking questions from board members. Discussion followed particularly over the school's roof and need for a second well. Chairman Burnham suggested that Board members review the draft budget before the next regular meeting (3/18).

7. COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) CAGE—Ann Gruenberg reported on her recent CAGE-related trip to Washington, DC and on the annual Day-On-the-Hill event scheduled for March 3.
- b) Community and Staff Relations—John Burnham reviewed the minutes of the December 2009 meeting. There was discussion concerning the need to announce school events and whether this could be done using the Town's Website.
- c) EASTCONN—no report.
- d) Finance—no report.
- e) Physical Plant and Operations—Doug Stewart reported on the proposals to the state for the roof and new well projects. He also reported on the maintenance program contract.
- f) Policy—Ann Gruenberg reported on the progress of the Policy Committee. Policy Committee recommends final approval of policies 2131, 3000, 3260, 3313, 3440, 2231, 3150, and 3250. Action will be required for these policies under Business Item 8a.

8. BUSINESS (ACTION ANTICIPATED ON ALL ITEMS)

f) Support Position for Grade 4—Superintendent/Principal Willhoit recapped the information concerning the search for a .5 grade four position. She introduced Daniel Rearick as the best match for the position and suggested that he could be hired as a full-time teacher (step 4 masters) until the end of the year with money from the REAP grant. **Ann Gruenberg made a motion to hire Daniel Rearick as a full-time grade 4 teacher masters 4th step for the remainder of this school year. Lisa Siegmund seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

a) **Ann Gruenberg made a motion to grant final approval to the eight policies recommended by the Policy Committee (see 7f above). Maryellen Donnelly seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

b) **Lisa Siegmund made a motion to renew the Group Medical/Dental Affiliation with RD 11 (see 4a above). Maryellen Donnelly seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

c) **Doug Stewart made a motion to raise the paraprofessional step scale (step 1) to \$8.25 per hour. Ann Gruenberg seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

d) Marsha Willhoit conveyed a staff request to donate sick time to a paraprofessional in need. BOE precedence were reviewed. **Doug Stewart made a motion to approve the request from staff to donate sick time to the paraprofessional not to exceed 20 days. Maryellen Donnelly seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

e) Budget 2010-2011—no further discussion.

9. BOE COMMUNICATION TO THE PUBLIC—will be discussed at 3/18 meeting

10. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS

Gay Wagner expressed concern over the draft budget and wondered if it were time to ask for givebacks. She also wondered if there was a Board policy concerning attendance. She added that HES has a page on the Town Website that could be used.

Alan Cahill asked about HES current enrollment. He applauded the hiring of a male teacher.

Juan Arriola also applauded hiring a male teacher and wondered about a minority hire. He questioned the step level and need for a new teacher. He reminded the Board about its independence from Parish Hill.

Gay Wagner asked a question concerning the incidents of bullying at HES.

Kate Donnelly wondered if Peer Mediation was still being used at HES. She noted that the Town's Website may not be able to support the needs of HES. She suggested that there was a need to look for creative ways to reduce staff.

11. NEXT AGENDA PLANNING

12. ADJOURNMENT

Ann Gruenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Maryellen Donnelly seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Siegmund, Secretary